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(71) Applicant: **CIBA-GEIGY AG**
Klybeckstrasse 141
CH-4002 Basel(CH)

(72) Inventor: **Mueller, Karl F.**
119 West 77th Street
New York, New York 10024(US)
Inventor: **Plankl, Walter L.**
26-47th Loretta Street
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598(US)

(54) **Fluorine and/or silicone containing poly(alkylene-oxide)-block copolymers and contact lenses thereof.**

(57) Fluorine and/or silicone containing block copolymers are described which are the copolymerization product of mono; di- or trivinyl substituted poly(alkylene oxide) prepolymers (A) and fluoroalkyl-alkylene acrylates or methacrylates (B1), oligosiloxysilyl alkyl-acrylates or methacrylates (B2), and optionally other copolymerizable comonomers (C). The novel block copolymers are prepared in solution or bulk and are characterized by high oxygen permeability, flexibility and wettability and are therefore well suited as biocompatible polymers, especially as contact lenses.

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FLUORINE AND/OR SILICONE CONTAINING POLY(ALKYLENE-OXIDE)-BLOCK COPOLYMERS AND CONTACT LENSES THEREOF

Two classes of contact lenses can be distinguished by the way they are fitted to the eye. In hard lenses the fit is flatter than the cornea itself and the lens rocks back and forth with each eye lid blink, pumping tear fluid and thereby oxygen, as well as cell debris under and from under the lens. Hard lenses are preferred whenever excellent visual acuity is desired and difficult vision corrections are required, for instance in the case of astigmatism. They are however less comfortable for the wearer than are soft lenses, the second class of contact lenses. Soft contact lenses derive their name from their low modulus and draping quality, which allows them to smoothly cover the cornea surface. They are fitted to match the cornea as closely as possible and they are not much disturbed by the eyelid. Because of their tight adherence to the cornea, they have to possess sufficient oxygen permeability to keep the cornea well supplied with oxygen.

In the most common soft lens material - ~ 40% water containing poly-(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate) or poly-HEMA - water provides for sufficient oxygen flux to allow poly-HEMA lenses to be worn on a daily basis. The oxygen permeability O_2 .DK of a poly-HEMA hydrogel with ~ 40% water is 6.5 barrers, and for hydrogels with higher water content, for example poly-(N-vinylpyrrolidone) or poly-(vinyl alcohol) copolymers it is ~ 12.5 at 50% water, 15.5 at 60% water and 25 at 70% water. Such higher water-content hydrogels allow therefore the manufacture of soft contact lenses for extended wear, up to several months, subject only to periodic cleaning. Unfortunately, high water content hydrogels are also very fragile, especially if they are cut very thin, as they often are in order to increase oxygen flux.

Another class of soft contact lens materials are polysiloxane rubbers (PDMSi), which can have O_2 .DK values up to 500 barrers. Several polysiloxane based soft contact lens materials have been described, among them: conventional PDMSi rubbers produced by a hydrosilation cure; PDMSi-polyurethanes and PDMSi-polyacrylate block copolymers. All these materials suffer from an inherent lack of wettability and therefore require some kind of surface treatment to achieve the wettability required for comfortable and safe in-eye wear.

For non-hydrogel, water free contact lens compositions, siloxane units containing polymers have been used both, for soft contact lenses and hard contact lenses with enhanced oxygen permeability; fluorinated groups, which are another group of oxygenflux enhancing moieties, have only been used in hard contact lens materials although they would be preferable to siloxane groups in non-hydrogel soft lenses as well because of their low lipophilicity and low protein adsorption tendencies.

In hydrogel soft contact lens materials on the other hand, siloxane as well as fluorine has been used to enhance the oxygen permeability and many such silicone or fluorine containing hydrogels have been described in the literature for use as contact lens materials. Such silicone and/or fluorine containing hydrogels can possess oxygen permeabilities 3-8 times that of Si- or F-free hydrogels and at the same time retain some of the good wettability of hydrogels.

Polysiloxane hydrogels which are water swollen copolymers of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate or N-vinylpyrrolidone (NVP) with di- or tri-methacrylate functional poly-(dimethylsiloxane) have been described in U.S. Patent No. 4,136,250 for use as a drug delivery matrix, but also for contact lenses. Copolymers of tri-siloxy-hydroxy alkyl methacrylate with HEMA and/or NVP are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,139,692 and 4,139,513, and copolymers of C_1 - C_4 -dialkylacrylamides with oligosiloxanyl-silylalkyl-methacrylates are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,182,822 and 4,343,927, also for use as oxygen permeable hydrogel contact lenses. U.S. Patent No. 4,711,943 describes essentially similar Si-containing acrylic hydrogels.

Fluorinated hydrogels for use as soft contact lens materials are also known:

U.S. Patent Nos. 4,433,111 and 4,493,910 describe hydrogels and contact lenses obtained by copolymerization of 20-40 mol % substituted or unsubstituted acrylamide or methacrylamide; 25-55 mol % N-vinylpyrrolidone (NVP); 5-20% mol % hydroxyalkyl(meth)-acrylate; 1-10 mol % (meth)-acrylic acid, and 1-9 mol % of a perfluoroalkylalkylene(meth)-acrylate; the perfluoroalkyl groups act to reduce protein deposition.

U.S. Patent No. 4,640,965 describes hydrogels and contact lenses obtained by copolymerization of hydroxyfluoroalkylstyrene (5-60%, by weight), with hydroxyalkyl (meth)-acrylates or N-vinylpyrrolidone (40-95%, by weight); the hydroxy groups are necessary to attain the required compatibility.

U.S. Patent No. 4,638,040 describes the synthesis of 1,3-bis(trifluoroacetoxy)propyl-2-methacrylate polymers and their use as hydrogel-contact lens materials or as ocular implants after hydrolysis.

U.S. Patent No. 4,650,843 describes hydrogel contact lens materials consisting essentially of copolymers of 50-95% (by weight) of 2-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate and 5-35% (by weight) of fluorinated methacrylates with up to 5 F-atoms.

Copolymers of N,N-dimethylacrylamide (DMA) with perfluoroalkylacrylates or methacrylates are described in European patent application 351 364 for use as oxygen permeable hydrogel contact lenses.

In all the cited prior-art is the hydrophilic component based of water-soluble vinyl monomers, like HEMA, NVP or DMA, which are copolymerized with silicone and/or fluorine containing monomers or prepolymers. Although a great variety of Si or F containing hydrogels can be prepared with these hydrophilic monomers, they all possess as hydrophilic component a carbon-carbon backbone polymer; for the specific requirements of long-term in-eye use, contact lenses with poly-(ethylene oxide) (PEO) as hydrophilic component would be preferable since PEO is considered to have better biocompatibility and less lipid and protein adsorption problems. Less protein adsorption generally means less discoloration, better wettability and comfort, and generally a longer uselife for a contact lens.

Poly-(ethylene oxide) as part of a silicone containing hydrogel is included also in U.S. Patent No. 4,136,250, in form of dimethacrylate-(PEO)-(PDMSi)-(PEO) block copolymers, copolymerized with HEMA or NVP; the amount of PEO incorporated into the polymer is limited due to the presence of the other comonomers. Similar poly-(propylene oxide)-PDMSi block copolymers are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,740,533 although this patent is directed toward essentially water free polymers for contact lenses.

Poly-(ethylene oxide) as part of fluorine containing hydrophilic polymers are also described: U.S. Patent No. 3,728,151 describes PEO block copolymer with perfluoroalkyl ($-R_f$) acrylates and -methacrylates, obtained by chain transfer polymerization with PEO-dithiols; by virtue of their synthesis method these polymers are linear, non-crosslinked, low molecular weight polymers of the A-B-A block type; their use is in textile finishing, where they impart anti-soiling and soil-releasing, self-washing properties.

U.S. Patent No. 4,046,944 describes block copolyurethane-ureas prepared from PEO-diols and PEO-diamines, bis-perfluoroalkyl substituted butane diols and diisocyanates, also for use in textile finishing as soil-release agents. This polymer too is not crosslinked and therefore not a hydrogel, and of limited molecular weight.

No PEO and F-containing hydrogels are described in the prior art for use in biomaterials and contact lenses. This is probably due to the difficulty in making clear compositions of high molecular weight; since the PEO-hydrophile is a pre-polymeric unit of at least 1,000 MW, the F-containing part of the polymer has to be present in a polymeric form as well; block-copolymers of this type are clear only if the blocks are sufficiently short and association between blocks are in size smaller than the wavelength of light. PEO and F-blocks are especially difficult to combine into a clear copolymer because of the inherent incompatibility of their prepolymeric and monomeric precursors and their very different refraction indices.

It has now unexpectedly been discovered that novel, crosslinked, clear, wettable and highly oxygen permeable poly(ethylene oxide) and fluorine or silicone containing polymers can be prepared, if α,ω -divinyl functionalized PEO-prepolymers are copolymerized with perfluoroalkylacrylates or methacrylates and/or oligosiloxy-silylalkyl acrylates or methacrylates, optionally in the presence either of a third comonomer or a non-reactive solvent or solvent mixture, capable of dissolving all monomeric components.

After synthesis, the polymers can be transformed by equilibration in water into flexible, clear, wettable and oxygen permeable hydrogels, which are useful in biomedical application, as oxygen permeable films and coatings and especially as deposit resistant, highly oxygen permeable contact lenses.

It has further been discovered, that clear block-copolymers with analogous structures can also be made with poly-propylene oxide and poly-tetramethylene oxide as polyether blocks. These block copolymers are strong, flexible, O₂-permeable and, despite a low (< 5%) water content, highly wettable and are therefore useful in many of the above-mentioned applications.

The instant invention pertains to copolymers which are oxygen permeable, flexible, wettable, biocompatible and suitable for use in ophthalmic devices, such as contact lenses, which copolymers comprise the polymerization product of

(A) 10 to 80% by weight of a vinyl-telechelic polyether, or a mixture thereof,

(B) 90 to 20% by weight of

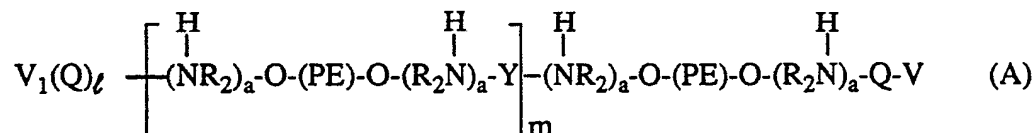
(B-1) a fluorinated, ethylenically unsaturated monomer, or

(B-2) a silicone-containing ethylenically unsaturated monomer, or a mixture of monomer (B-1) and monomer (B-2), and

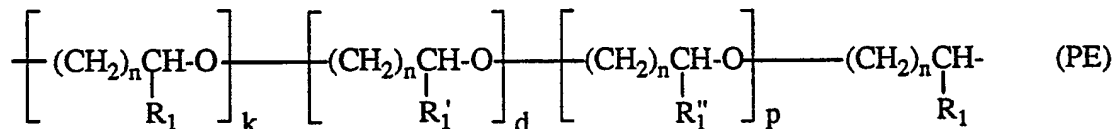
(C) 0 to 60% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer or mixture of monomers other than monomer (B-1) or monomer (B-2).

Another object of the invention are those copolymers which comprise 20 to 80% by weight of (A) and 80 to 20% by weight of (B) and are otherwise as defined in the preceding paragraph.

The vinyl-telechelic polyether (A) preferably has the formula:



wherein PE has a number average molecular weight (MW) of about 500 to about 10000 and preferably has the formula:



wherein n is 1 to 3,

k, d and p are integers from 0 to 300, and the sum of k + d + p is 7 to 300,

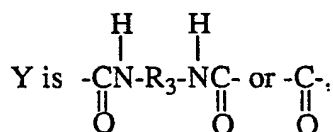
R₁, R₁' and R₁'' are independently of each other hydrogen or methyl, with the proviso that if n is 3, R₁, R₁' and R₁'' are hydrogen, thus describing the backbones of poly(ethylene oxide), poly-(propylene oxide) and poly-(butylene oxide), but also block-copolymers of the aforementioned alkylene oxides,

a is zero or 1,

m is an integer from zero to 2,

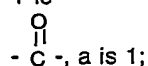
l is zero or 1,

R₂ is linear or branched alkylene with 2 to 4 carbon atoms;

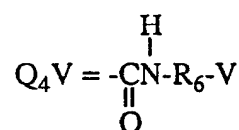
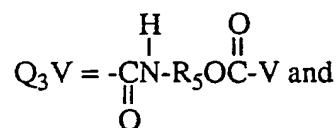
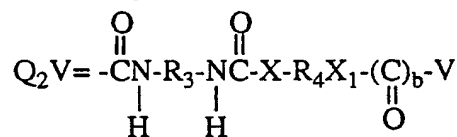
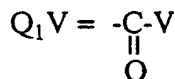


wherein R₃ is a divalent aliphatic group with 2 to 14 carbon atoms, a divalent 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic group with 5 to 15 C-atoms, or an arylene group with 6 to 14 C-atoms, with the proviso, that if

Y is



Q is selected from (shown as attached to V):



wherein R_4 is alkylene of 2 to 4 carbon atoms,

R_5 is alkylene of 2 to 10 carbon atoms,

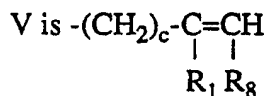
R_6 is arylene or alkyl-substituted arylene of 6 to 20 carbon atoms,

X is -O- or -NR₇-, wherein R_7 is alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

5 X₁ is -O-, -NH- or -NR₇-,

b is zero or 1,

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c is zero or 1,

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V_1 has same meaning as V, or is H or R_9 , when t is zero,

R_8 is H or -COOH, with the proviso that, if R_8 is -COOH, R_1 is H, c is zero, and Q is Q₁;

R_9 is alkyl of 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

with the further proviso that when Q is Q₂, a is zero;

when Q is Q₂, Q₃ or Q₄, R_8 is H;

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when c is 1, b is zero, Q is Q₂ and R_1 and R_8 are H; and

when V_1 is R_9 , m is zero.

The foregoing description for (A) thus includes poly(alkylene oxide) diols and α,ω -diaminoalkyl poly(alkylene oxides) (a = 1), of about 500 to about 10000 molecular weight, optionally chain-extended with diisocyanates (m > 0) and endcapped either directly with vinyl unsaturated isocyanates, preferably 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate (IEM) or m-isopropenyl- α,α -dimethylbenzyl isocyanate (TMI) (Q = Q₃ and Q₄); included are also the same poly(alkylene oxides) capped with diisocyanates, followed by reaction with amino- or hydroxy- alkyl acrylates, -methacrylates, -acrylamides or -methacrylamides, hydroxyalkyl vinyl ether or allyl alcohol (Q = Q₂);

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as well as direct ester or amides (Q = Q₁).

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If less than equivalent molar amounts of capping reactants are used, some of the vinyltelechelic macromers are terminated by vinyl groups only on one end (V_1 = H or R_9).

Thus, the vinyl unsaturated groups are bonded to the poly(alkyleneoxide) chain ends, either directly by ester or amide linkages (Q = Q₁); by two urethane or urea linkages and one ester or amide linkage (Q = Q₂), or by one urethane or urea and one ester linkage (Q = Q₃), or by a urea linkage alone (Q = Q₄).

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Preferred are poly(alkylene oxide) vinyl unsaturated prepolymers of structures (A) where Q is of structure Q₂, Q₃ or Q₄; most preferred are prepolymers (A) where PE is poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene oxide) or poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide), and Q is of structures Q₃ or Q₄ and a is 1.

Preferred vinyl unsaturated groups V are segments of acrylic, methacrylic and styrenic groups, with methacrylic and styrenic groups being most preferred.

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Preferred groups R_3 are the diradical residues of divalent aliphatic diisocyanates with 6-12 carbon atoms, of divalent cycloaliphatic diisocyanates with 6-15 carbon atoms and of divalent aromatic diisocyanates with 6 to 10 carbon atoms.

Most preferred are the diradical residues of isophorone diisocyanate and of 2,4,4(2,2,4)-trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate.

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Preferred groups R_5 are ethylene, propylene and butylene, with ethylene being most preferred.

Preferred groups R_6 are phenylene and alpha, alpha-dimethylbenzylene with alpha, alpha-dimethylbenzylene being most preferred.

Useful polyethers PE include: poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) diols of 500-10000 MW; poly(propylene oxide) (PPO) diols of 500-10000 MW; a poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide) diol of random or block copolymer structure in ratios of PEO:PPO from 1:30 to 30:1 and with 500-10000 MW; poly(tetra-methylene oxide) (PTMO) diols with 500-10000 MW.

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It is within the scope of the present invention to use not only the di-functional polyethers of structure (A), but also a great variety of tri- or tetrafunctional poly-ether alkanols, as they can be easily prepared by alkoxylation of mols, amines or diamines; tetra-(polyalkylene oxide)-alkanols are for instance known under the tradename TETRONIC (BASF) and are alkylene oxide adducts to ethylene diamine. Also useful are products known as ETHOMEEN (AKZO Chemie) surfactants, which are ethylene oxide adducts to C₁-C₁₈ alkyl amines. By amination the corresponding tri- or tetra-amines can be prepared, for example, the amination products of propylene oxide adducts to glycerol or trimethylol-propane are available as

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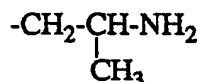
JEFFAMINE-T from Texaco Chem. Corp. and are also useful in the context of this invention.

Also useful in the context of this invention are fluorinated polyethers of MW 600-5000, for example:

$\text{HO-CH}_2\text{CF}_2\text{O}(\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{O})_x(\text{CF}_2\text{O})_y\text{CF}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-OH}$ wherein

x and y are independently of each other integers from 6 to 50, as for instance described in U.S. Patent No. 4,440,918.

Preferred are α,ω -di-(aminopropyl) PEO of 1000-8000 MW; and α,ω -di-(aminopropyl) PPO of 1000-8000 MW and α,ω -di-(aminopropyl)poly-(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide) of 1000 to 10000 MW. Most preferred are α,ω -di-(aminopropyl)-PEO and α,ω -di-(aminopropyl)-PPO or α,ω -di-(aminopropyl) (ethylene-co-propylene oxide) of 1000-8000 MW, where the aminopropyl group $\text{-R}_2\text{-NH}_2$ is of structure:



These amino terminated poly(alkylene oxides) are prepared, for example by amination of the corresponding diols and are commercially available under the tradename JEFFAMINE from Texaco Chem. Corp.

Diisocyanates of structure $\text{R}_3\text{-(NCO)}_2$ useful to form the prepolymer intermediate before capping with a reactive vinyl monomer, are aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic diisocyanates or mixtures thereof selected from the group consisting of ethylene diisocyanate, 1,2-diisocyanatopropane, 1,3-diisocyanatopropane, 1,6-diisocyanatohexane, 1,2-diisocyanatocyclohexane, 1,3-diisocyanatocyclohexane, 1,4-diisocyanatobenzene, bis(4-isocyanatocyclohexyl)methane, bis(4-isocyanatocyclohexenyl)methane, bis(4-isocyanatophenyl)-methane, 2,6- and 2,4-toluene diisocyanate; 3,3'-dichloro-4,4'-diisocyanatobiphenyl; 1,5-diisocyanatonaphthalene, hydrogenated toluene diisocyanate; 1-isocyanatomethyl-5-isocyanato-1,3, 3-trimethylcyclohexane (= isophorone diisocyanate); 2,2,4-(2,4,4)-trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate, 2,2'-diisocyanatodiethyl fumarate; 1,5-diisocyanato-1-carboxypentane; 1,2-, 1,3-, 1,6-, 1,7-, 1,8-, 2,7- and 2,3-diisocyanatonaphthalene; 2,4- and 2,7-diisocyanato-1-methylnaphthalene; 4,4'-diisocyanatobiphenyl; 4,4'-diisocyanato-3,3'-diisocyanato-6(7)-methylnaphthalene; 4,4'-diisocyanato-2,2-dimethyl biphenyl; bis-(4-isocyanatophenyl) ethane; and bis(4-isocyanatophenyl) ether.

The preferred diisocyanates are isophorone diisocyanate, 2,2,4-(2,4,4)-trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate and 2,4- and 2,6-toluene diisocyanate.

Unsaturated, polymerizable vinyl compounds of structure $\text{V-(CO)}_b\text{-X}_1\text{R}_4\text{XH}$ useful to react with the NCO-capped poly-(alkylene oxides) contain hydroxy or amino groups and are selected from the groups consisting of acrylic, methacrylic, acrylamido, methacrylamido, vinyl ether, styrene, allyl, maleate, fumarate and itaconate moieties. Typical examples include: 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate and methacrylate, 2- and 3-hydroxypropyl acrylate and methacrylate; 4-hydroxybutyl acrylate and methacrylate; glycerol dimethacrylate; hydroxyethyl maleate and fumarate; 2-hydroxyethyl- and 4-hydroxy-butyl vinyl ether; N-tert.-butyl-aminoethyl methacrylate, N-(3-hydroxypropyl)-methacrylamide; vinyl-benzyl alcohol; allyl alcohol.

Preferred active hydrogen containing vinyl compounds are 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate and methacrylate and N-tert.-butyl-aminoethyl methacrylate.

Vinyl unsaturated isocyanates of structure $\text{V-COOR}_5\text{NCO}$ or $\text{V-R}_6\text{-NCO}$ useful to make the vinyl-telechelic poly-(alkylene oxides) in one step include 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, 2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate, 3-isocyanatopropyl methacrylate, 1-methyl-2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, and 1,1-dimethyl-2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate.

Such compounds and their preparation are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 2,718,516 and British Patent No. 1,252,099.

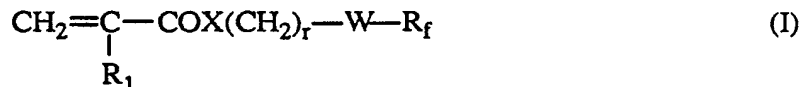
Other useful isocyanates include isocyanatoalkyl vinyl ethers, such as 2-isocyanatobutyl vinyl ether, and styrene isocyanate and m-isopropenyl- α,α -dimethylbenzyl isocyanate. Also useful are isocyanates obtained by the reaction of one mole of a hydroxy-or aminoalkyl acrylate or methacrylate with one mole of a diisocyanate of structure $\text{R}_3\text{-(NCO)}_2$. Examples of useful such acrylates and methacrylates include 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, or t-butylaminoethyl methacrylate; suitable diisocyanates include isophorone diisocyanate, (3,3,4)-trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate, toluene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate and the like.

Most preferred are 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate and m-isopropenyl- α,α -dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.

Vinyl-telechelic polyethers with Q of structure Q_1 are made, for example, by esterification with acrylic acid, acryloyl chloride, acrylic acid anhydride or the methacrylic analog, or by transesterification with methyl acrylate or methacrylate, or by reaction with maleic- or itaconic anhydride or fumaroyl chloride.

The vinyl-telechelic poly-(alkylene oxides) can be used singly or in combination with each other.

The fluorinated and/or silicone containing monomers (B) useful for making the novel polymers of this invention are acrylic or styrenic monomers. Fluorine-containing monomers (B-1) are vinyl monomers containing at least three fluorine atoms selected from the group consisting of hexafluoroisopropyl acrylate and methacrylate, perfluorocyclohexyl acrylate and methacrylate, pentafluorostyrene and the acrylate or methacrylate esters or amides of the formula



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wherein

R_f is $-(\text{CF}_2)_t\text{CF}_2\text{L}$ or $-(\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2)_q\text{OCF}(\text{CF}_3)_2$

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

15 X is oxygen or $-\text{NR}_7-$ wherein R_7 is an alkyl group with 1-5 carbon atoms,

r is an integer from 1-4,

t is an integer from 0-14,

q is an integer from 1-3; *

L is hydrogen or fluorine, with the proviso that, when t is 0, L is fluorine; and

20 W is a direct bond or a divalent group of the structure $-\text{NR}_7-\text{CO}-$; $-\text{NR}_7\text{SO}_2-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$; $-\text{NR}_7\text{SO}_2-$; $-\text{S}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$; $-\text{NR}_7-(\text{CH}_2)_r-\text{NR}_7\text{SO}_2-$; or $-\text{NHCO}-$.

Typical examples are 1,1,2,2-tetrahydroperfluorodecyl acrylate and methacrylate, 1,1,2,2-tetrahydroperfluorooctyl acrylate and methacrylate and 1,1,2,2 tetrahydroperfluorooctyl methacrylamide or acrylamide.

Other useful fluorinated monomers include hexafluoroisopropyl acrylate, hexafluoroisopropyl methacrylate, perfluorocyclohexyl methacrylate, and 2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-styrene; the acrylates and methacrylates of fluoroalkyl substituted amido-alcohols, such as of $\text{C}_7\text{F}_{15}\text{CON}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH}$; of sulfonamido-alcohols, such as of $\text{C}_8\text{F}_{17}\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{OH}$ and $\text{C}_8\text{F}_{17}\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH}$; of perfluoroether alcohols, such as of $\text{C}_3\text{F}_7-\text{O}(\text{C}_3\text{F}_6\text{O})_2\text{CF}(\text{CF}_3)-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ or $(\text{CF}_3)_2\text{CFO}(\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2)_2-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; and the acrylates and methacrylates of fluorinated thioether alcohols of structure $\text{CF}_3(\text{CF}_2)_r-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; acrylates and methacrylates of sulfonamido-amines, such as of $\text{R}_f\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NH}_2$ and $\text{R}_f\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH}_2$; of amido-amines, such as of $\text{R}_f\text{CONH}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH}_2$; as well as the vinyl monomers obtained by reaction of these aforementioned fluorinated alcohols and amines with 2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate or methacrylate or m-isopropenyl-1,1-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.

Preferred are fluorinated monomers in which X is oxygen, W is a direct bond, R_1 is hydrogen, r is 2, t is 6 to 10 and L is fluorine; or in which r is 1 or 2, t is 1-4 and L is fluorine, or in which R_1 is methyl, r is 2, t is 4 to 10 and L is fluorine.

Preferred are hexafluoroisopropyl methacrylate, trifluoroethyl methacrylate, and 1,1,2,2-tetrahydroperfluorooctyl and 1,1,2,2-tetrahydroperfluorodecyl acrylate and methacrylate, with 1,1,2,2-tetrahydroperfluorooctyl acrylate being most preferred.

40 Silicone containing vinyl monomers (B-2) are oligosiloxanyl-silylalkyl acrylates and methacrylates containing from 2-10 Si-atoms. Typical representatives include: tris(trimethylsiloxy-silyl)propyl (meth)acrylate, triphenyldimethyl-disiloxanylmethyl (meth)acrylate, pentamethyl-disiloxanylmethyl acrylate, tert-butyl-tetramethyl-disiloxanylethyl (meth)acrylate, methyl-di(trimethylsiloxy)silylpropyl-glyceryl (meth)acrylate; pentamethyldi-siloxanyl-methyl methacrylate; heptamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxyl methyl methacrylate; heptamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxyl-propyl methacrylate; (trimethylsilyl)-decamethyl-pentasiloxyl-propyl methacrylate; undecamethyl pentasiloxylpropyl methacrylate. Preferably the monomer is tris (trimethylsiloxy-silyl) propyl methacrylate.

The (B-1) fluorine and/or (B-2) silicone containing monomer units as (B) can be present in the polymers of this invention in amounts of 20-90%, preferable 40-80%, most preferably 50-70% by weight. When mixtures of (B-1) and (B-2) are used, they are preferably in a weight ratio of 4:1 to 1:4.

50 The monomers (C) which can be present in the polymers of this invention in amounts from 0-60% can be any copolymerizable vinyl monomer, like an ester or amide of acrylic or methacrylic acid with from 1-20 carbon atoms in a linear or branched aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic group containing ester or amide group, and which may be interrupted by hetero atoms like sulfur or oxygen; analogous mono- or di-esters of maleic and itaconic acid; alkyl vinyl ethers with 1 to 10 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, vinyl esters of C_1 to C_{12} - carboxylic acids; styrene and alkyl substituted styrene and α -methylstyrene; hydroxyalkyl acrylates, methacrylates, acrylamides and methacrylamides; alkyl- and dialkyl-amino-alkyl methacrylates and methacrylamides; hydroxyalkyl vinyl ethers, hydroxyalkyl maleates and itaconates.

These comonomers are preferably present in amounts of 5-60%, most preferably in amounts of 10-50% by weight.

Representative examples include: methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n- and isopropyl acrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, trimethyl-cyclohexyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, benzyl acrylate and all the corresponding
 5 methacrylates; furfuryl acrylate and methacrylate; methoxy-ethyl-, ethoxy-ethyl-, and ethoxy-ethoxy ethyl acrylate and methacrylate; 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate and methacrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl acrylate, methacrylate and methacrylamide; glycidyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethylacrylamide; N-isopropyl- acrylamide; N-vinylacetamide; N-vinyl-pyrrolidone; dimethylamino-ethyl methacrylate and methacrylamide; acrylic and methacrylic acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, 4-styrene sulfonic acid and 2-methacrylamido-2-methyl-propane-
 10 sulfonic acid and their salts.

Preferred are methoxy-ethyl acrylate and methoxy-ethyl methacrylate, ethoxy-ethyl acrylate and ethoxy-ethyl methacrylate; methyl methacrylate; methyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate; N-vinylpyrrolidone; N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide and styrene, and ethoxy-ethoxy-ethyl acrylate.

The vinyl-telechelic poly-alkylene oxides (A) may be prepared, either, most easily, in one step by the
 15 reaction of (poly-alkylene oxide) diols or diamines with the halide, anhydride or lower alkyl ester of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic or itaconic acid, or an isocyanatoalkyl acrylate or methacrylate or a styrene isocyanate, or alternatively, in two steps, by reaction with, first, an organic diisocyanate followed by, secondly, reaction with a hydroxy- or amino functional alkyl acrylate, alkyl methacrylate, alkyl maleate, alkyl itaconate, alkyl
 20 vinyl ether, allyl compound or styrene. Preferably, the vinyl-telechelic poly-(alkylene oxides) are synthesized by reaction of the poly-(alkylene oxide) diols or diamines with vinyl-unsaturated isocyanates. For urethane bond formation, catalysts are used in amounts from 0.01-0.5%. Typical catalysts include stannous octoate or dibutyltin dilaurate (DBTL), or tert.-amines like triethylamine.

Copolymerization of the vinyl-telechelic poly-(alkylene oxides) (A) with comonomers (B) and (C) may be carried out by employing initiators which generate free-radicals on application of an activating energy as is
 25 conventionally used in the polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers. Included among free-radical initiators are the conventional thermally activated initiators such as organic peroxides and organic hydroperoxides. Representative examples of such initiators include benzoyl peroxide, tertiary-butyl perbenzoate, diisopropyl peroxydicarbonate, cumene hydroperoxide, azobis(isobutyronitrile), and the like. Generally, from about 0.01 to 5 percent by weight of thermal initiator is used.

Preferably, UV-initiated polymerization is carried out, using photoinitiators. Such initiators are well known and have been described, for example, in polymerization art, e.g., Chapter II of "Photochemistry" by Calvert and Pitts, John Wiley & Sons (1966). The preferred initiators are photoinitiators which facilitate
 30 polymerization when the composition is irradiated. Representative examples of such initiators include acyloin and derivatives thereof, such as benzoin, benzoin methyl ether, benzoin ethyl ether, benzoin isopropyl ether, benzoin isobutyl ether and α -methylbenzoin; diketones such as benzil and diacetyl, etc.; ketones such as acetophenone, α,α,α -tribromoacetophenone, α,α -diethoxyacetophenone (DEAP), 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-1-propanone, o-nitro- α,α,α -tribromoacetophenone, benzophenone and p,p-tetramethyl-diaminobenzophenone; α -acyloxime esters such as benzil-(O-ethoxycarbonyl)- α -monoxime; ketone/amine combinations such as benzophenone/N-methyldiethanolamine, benzophenone/tributylamine and
 40 benzophenone/Michler's ketone; and benzil ketals such as benzil dimethyl ketal, benzil diethyl ketal and 2,5-dichlorobenzil dimethyl ketal. Normally, the photoinitiator is used in amounts ranging from about 0.01 to 5% by weight of the total oligomeric composition.

Preferably, about 0.1 to 1.0% of photoinitiator is used in the polymerizable compositions.

Polymerization may be carried out in bulk in a conventional manner or in the presence of a solvent.
 45 Especially in case of poly-(ethylene oxide) as (A) building block, cosolvents are usually required to compatibilize components (A) and (B). The amount of solvent required depends on the nature and relative amounts of (A) and (B), but also on the choice of comonomer (C), which can act as a solvent for (A) and (B). Useful solvents to carry out the polymerization include ketones, like acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl propyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone and cyclohexanone; alcohols like ethanol, isopropanol or
 50 ethyl-cellosolve; ethers like ethylene glycol or diethylene glycol dimethyl ether; esters like ethyl acetate or isopropyl acetate; dimethyl sulfoxide; N-methylpyrrolidone; N,N-dimethylformamide; N,N-dimethylacetamide and the like.

The polymerization is carried out in molds, which can consist of plastics, glass or metal and can be any shape. For making films and sheets, the molds are preferably made of glass plates and lined with MYLAR
 55 or other polymer films and held together by clamps, using a spacer of desired thickness. Contact lenses are preferably prepared in UV-permeable plastic molds.

After polymerization is complete, the polymer is removed from the mold and any solvent present is either removed by vacuum drying or extraction with water and with water-soluble solvents, or water-solvent

mixtures. Useful solvents are acetone, ethanol, methanol, isopropanol and the like. Azeotropic distillation is also a useful procedure to remove certain solvents. After the solvent is removed the polymer is equilibrated in distilled water and its water content is determined gravimetrically. All subsequent measurements are carried out on the water-equilibrated polymers.

- 5 In the following examples bending angle is determined on 2.5 x 0.5 inch 1 mm thick, cast sheets by determining the angle formed by a 2 inch overhang and the horizontal. Oxygen permeability is measured with a O₂-Permeometer-Model 201-T (Createch), using buffered saline (pH = 7) as electrolyte and is expressed in units

$$10 \quad O_2 \cdot DK \text{ (barrers)} = \frac{\text{cm}^3(\text{STP})\text{cm} \cdot 10^{-10}}{\text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{cmHg}} \quad \text{at a given thickness and temperature}$$

- 15 Physical-mechanical measurements are carried out with an INSTRON testing apparatus, model 1123 on 0.6-1 mm thick sheets.

Water content is expressed as:

$$20 \quad \% H_2O = \frac{\text{weight of swollen polymer} - \text{weight of dry polymer}}{\text{weight of swollen polymer}} \times 100$$

- Examples 1-25 describe the synthesis of fluorine or silicone containing poly-(ethylene oxide) block copolymer hydrogels.

25

Example 1: Synthesis of Poly-(ethylene oxide)-urethane Dimethacrylate

- 30 120 g (0.0358 m) Poly-ethylene oxide diol (PEO) of MW 3350 are filled into a 500 ml round bottom flask, equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, gas-inlet tube, thermometer and heating mantle. The PEO is heated to 80 °C and the molten resin is stirred for 2 hours at a vacuum of ≤ 0.05 - 1 mm Hg; the liquid is slowly cooled to 50 °C and the vacuum broken with dry air. 60 g Isopropyl acetate (IPAC) are added and a clear solution is formed.

- 35 11.18 g (0.072 m) 2-Isocyanatoethyl methacrylate and 21.8 g isopropyl acetate are filled into an addition funnel and are slowly added to the PEO solution. 50 g IPAC are used to rinse the funnel. After addition is complete, 0.071 g dibutyl-tin dilaurate (DBTL) (0.15 mol %) are added and the mixture is stirred at 50 °C under dry air for three hours or until all NCO has been consumed as determined by IR-analysis. The product is allowed to cool down and crystallize and 60 g IPAC are added to form a slurry. The slurry is filtered and dried to a white powder, weighing 128.4 g (98% of theory).

40

Example 2:

- 45 Using the same procedure as described in example 1, a PEO-di(urethane-methacrylate) is prepared, using poly-(ethylene oxide) diol of 1450 MW.

Example 3: Synthesis of Si-containing Poly-(ethylene oxide) Block Copolymers

- 50 5 g of the PEO-dimethacrylate of example 1 are mixed with 5 g tris-(trimethylsiloxy)-silyl-propyl methacrylate (Si₄MA), 4 g N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), 6 g methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and 0.4 % benzoin methyl ether (BME) as UV initiator. The solution is degassed by vacuum which then is broken with dry nitrogen and is filled into a 0.5 mm wide MYLAR lined glass mold held together by clamps, after which it is finally polymerized by exposure to UV radiation from a SYLVANIA Black-Lite Blue lamp for 8 hours.

- 55 The clear polymer sheet is removed from the mold and the solvent is exchanged with water first by immersion for 12 hours in distilled water, followed by one hour boiling and equilibration for 48 hours.

A clear, flexible hydrogel is obtained which contains 54.4 % water, has a bending angle of 58 ° and an oxygen permeability DK of 52 barrers.

Example 4: Synthesis of poly-ethylene oxide urea-dimethacrylate from α,ω -di-(1-methyl-aminoethyl) poly-(ethylene oxide).

57.68 g(0.020 m) of a α,ω -di-(1-methyl-aminoethyl) poly-(ethylene oxide) of MW 2884 and 57.7 g of anhydrous methyl propyl ketone are charged into a 3-neck round bottomed flask which has been equipped with a stirrer, nitrogen inlet, condenser, thermometer and dropping funnel. The solution is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen. Then 6.20 g (0.04 mole) of 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate (MW 155) dissolved in 6.2 g of anhydrous methylpropyl ketone are added slowly from the dropping funnel. The mildly exothermic reaction is maintained at 35° C and below by water bath cooling for 1 hour at which time an IR analysis shows the reaction to be complete.

Example 5-13:

Following the procedure of example 3, the PEO-urea dimethacrylate of example 4 is mixed with various fluorinated comonomers (F.-mon) and other comonomers, using methyl propyl ketone (MPK) as a solvent. 0.5% Benzoin methyl ether is added. The mixtures are degassed, filled into 1 mm thick molds and cured for 8 hours by UV. The polymer sheets are removed from the mold, extracted for 24 hours by swelling in ethanol, boiled for 1 hour in distilled water followed by equilibration in water.

Composition and test results are shown in the following table.

Examples 5-13									
Following the procedure of example 3, fluorine containing PEO-block copolymer hydrogels are synthesized and their properties are determined using the fluorinated monomers and solvent compositions shown in the Table;									
Ex. No.	Monomers, % ¹⁾			Other %	Solvents NMP/MEK %/%	[P] ²⁾ %	Properties		
	PEO-dimethacrylate of Ex.;	%	Si, F-containing comonomer				H ₂ O %	Bending Angle °	O ₂ .DK (barrers)
5	1	50	R ₁ A, 50	-	35/65	40	70.0	52	56
6	1	38	R ₁ A, 39	MMA 23	40/60	50	49.3	25	27
7	1	40	Si ₄ MA, 10; R ₁ A, 30	MMA 20	42/58	51	55.3	55	37
8	1	30	R ₁ A, 60	MMA 10	26/74	47	51.6	28	40
9	2	50	Si ₄ MA, 50	-	70/30	42	44.0	22	43
10	2	50	R ₁ A, 50	-	45/55	25	55.1	50	36
11	1	59	R ₁ A, 41	-	35/65	37	71.0	43	43
12	1	50	F ₇ MA, 50	-	50/50	50	57.2	15	35
13	1	50	F ₆ MA, 50	-	50/50	50	59.7	17	34

1) R₁A is C_nF_{2n+1}-CH₂CH₂OOC-CH=CH₂, with n = 6/8/10/12 in weight percent of 0.5/75./22./2.5

Si₄ MA is tris-trimethylsiloxy-silyl-propyl methacrylate .

F₇ MA is heptafluorobutyl methacrylate

F₆ MA is hexafluoroisopropyl methacrylate

MMA is methyl methacrylate

2) [P] is polymer (monomer) concentration in solvent.

Example 14:

Using the procedure of example 3, selected PEO-block copolymers are synthesized in 1 mm wide MYLAR lined molds and their physical-mechanical properties are measured and reported in the following table.

Polymer of Ex.	H ₂ O %	Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %
3	54.4	6.3	13.6	106
6	49.3	33.0	93.4	63
11	71.0	4.6	25.0	20
12	57.2	25.1	106.0	29
13	59.7	16.6	69.4	28

Example 15:

The hydrolytic stability of PEO-block copolymers is evaluated by aging in pH 7.4 phosphate-buffered saline solution at 80 ° C for 132 hours and measuring physical properties before and after aging. The results are shown in the Table.

Polymer of Example	H ₂ O %	Tensile Strength kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus kg/cm ²	Elongation %	Bending Angle
9	initial: 44	8.9	28	65	26
	aged: 43	7.0	26	50	30
10	initial: 55	2.7	17	38	50
	aged: 56	3.0	17	25	50

Example 16-25:

Following the procedure of example 3, the PEO-urea dimethacrylate of example 4 is mixed with various fluorinated comonomers (F.-mon) and other comonomers, using methyl-propyl ketone (MPK) as a solvent.. 0.5% Benzoin methyl ether is added. The mixtures are degassed, filled into 1 mm thick molds and cured for 8 hours by UV. The polymer sheets are removed from the mold, extracted for 24 hours by swelling in ethanol, boiled for 1 hour in distilled water followed by equilibration in water.

Compositions and test results are shown in the following table.

Example 16-25											
Ex. No.	Macromer of Ex. 4 %	Composition			[Pol] %	H ₂ O %	Bending °	INSTRON Data			O ₂ . DK Barrers at mm/° C
		F-mon %	MMA %	MOEA %				Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %	
16	40	C ₆ FA 40	20	-	57.8	44.7	37	9.3	23.8	117	21 0.4/20
17	30	R ₁ A, 50	20	-	55.5	48.8	58	5.3	6.3	274	30 0.4/20
18	30	C ₆ FA 50	20	-	67.1	32.7	33	17.8	31.9	253	41 0.1/21
19	30	R ₁ A 50	19.8	-	56.6	41.1	44	10.8	22.2	242	41 0.1/23
20	30	R ₁ A 60	9.8	-	50.2	44.2	43	7.6	17.6	87	55 0.1/23
21	30	R ₁ A 60	-	10	51.8	46.3	49	6.3	14.1	88	33 0.45/20
22	30	R ₁ A 50	-	19.8	54.1	43.9	38	3.7	12.9	47	45 0.1/23
23	35	R ₁ A 45	-	20	54.6	47.9	55	3.1	13.2	34	35 0.99/20
24	40	R ₁ A 40	-	20	56.3	51.3	45	2.4	15.5	18	33 0.97/20
25	30	R ₁ A 45	-	25	55.7	44.6	55	4.8	10.7	117	35 0.96/22
p-HEMA, for comparison						39.0	60	3.0	5.5	90	6 0.25/22
Abbreviations: MMA = methyl methacrylate											
MOEA = methoxy-ethyl acrylate											
XL = ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate											
R ₁ A = R ₁ -ethyl acrylate											
R ₁ = C _n F _{2n+1} , n = 6/8/10/12 = 5.4/72.8/20.8/0.9, in% (w/w).											
C ₆ FA = R ₁ A with n = 6											
[Pol] = polymer % in MPK											

Examples 26-50 describe the synthesis of silicone and/or fluorine containing poly-(propylene oxide) block copolymers.

5

Example 26:

41.98 g (0.020 m) α,ω -Bis-(aminopropyl)-poly(propylene oxide) of MW 2099 are charged into a 3-necked round bottomed flask, equipped with stirrer, nitrogen inlet, condenser, thermometer and dropping funnel. The liquid is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen while 6.20 g (0.040 m 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate (IEM) are slowly added. The mildly exothermic reaction mixture is maintained at 35° C by water bath cooling for one hour after which time IR analysis shows the reaction to be complete.

15 Example 27:

Following the procedure of example 26, a methacrylate terminated poly(propylene oxide) prepolymer is prepared from α,ω -bis-(1-methyl-amino ethyl)-poly-(propylene oxide) of MW 4408.

20

Example 28:

The procedure of example 26 is repeated, but using m-isopropenyl- α,α -dimethylbenzyl isocyanate (TMI) as the vinyl-unsaturated isocyanate.

25

Example 29:

The procedure of example 27 is repeated, but using m-isopropenyl- α,α -dimethylbenzyl isocyanate (TMI) as the vinyl-unsaturated isocyanate.

30

Examples 30-32:

35 Synthesis of chain extended, methacrylate-terminated poly- (propylene oxide).

100.75 g (0.048 m) of α,ω -Di-(aminopropyl)-poly-(propylene oxide) of MW 2099 are charged into a 3-necked round bottomed flask which is equipped with a stirrer, nitrogen inlet, condenser, thermometer and dropping funnel. The liquid is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen. 1.26 g (0.006 m) 2,2,4(2,4,4) Trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate (TMDI) are added and the reaction mixture is kept at 28° C for 2 hours, by which time all NCO-groups are reacted, as determined by IR-analysis, yielding a partially chain extended prepolymer containing PPO and TMDI in a mol ratio of 8:1. Then 13.03 g (0.084 m) of 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate (IEM) (MW 155) are added slowly from the dropping funnel. The mildly exothermic reaction is maintained at 35° C and below by water bath cooling for 1 hour, at which time an IR analysis shows the reaction to be complete.

45 By the same procedure, chain extended IEM-capped PPO-prepolymers are prepared, containing PPO and TMDI in mol ratios of

Example 31: 5/1 (PPO/TMDI)

Example 32: 4/1 (PPO/TMDI)

50

Examples 33-40:

Following the procedure of example 3, the poly(propylene oxide)-dimethacrylates of example 26-32 are mixed and reacted with fluorinated comonomers and other comonomers, in the presence of methyl-propyl ketone (MPK) as a solvent; 0.4% benzoin methyl ether (BME) and 8 hours UV-exposure are used for curing. After polymerization, the clear polymer sheets are removed, boiled in water for one hour to strip off unreacted monomer and solvent, and equilibrated in distilled water.

55

The polymer compositions thus prepared and their properties are shown in the table.

Example 33-40										
Ex. No.	Macromer		Composition			H ₂ O %	Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %	O ₂ .DK Barrers at mm/°C
	of Ex.	%	F-mon %	M-3 %	[P] %					
33	26	40	R _f A 40	DMA 20	69	21.4	3.5	23.5	20	36 0.92/24
34	26	40	R _f A 40	MMA 20	75	3.1	11.9	30.9	98	20 0.95/24
35	27	50	C ₈ FA 30	MOEA 20	90	3.2	5.3	9.0	254	45 0.95/22
36	27	50	C ₆ FA 50	- -	80	3.5	8.6	11.0	183	55 0.45/22
37	32	40	R _f A, 40	MMA 20	75	2.6	25.7	43.3	278	23 0.95 25
38	27	40	R _f A, 40	MOEA 20	74	2.3	8.0	14.0	122	48 0.92/24
39	27	40	C ₈ FA 40	MOEA 20	74	2.9	7.2	12.6	175	37 0.4/22
40	27	40	C ₆ FA 40	EOEMA 20	75	1.9	4.8	6.8	151	51 0.87/22
<p>R_fA, MMA, MOEA, are as described in example 16. [P] is as described in example 5 DMA is dimethylacrylamide C₈FA and C₆FA are R_f-A with n = 6 and 8 M-3 are other comonomers EOEMA is ethoxy-ethyl methacrylate</p>										

Example 41-50:

Following the procedure of example 3, the poly(propylene oxide)-dimethacrylates of examples 26, 27 and 28 are mixed and reacted with fluorinated comonomers and other comonomers, but no solvent is used. To the clear mixtures are added 0.2% benzoin methyl ether (BME), and 5 hour UV exposure is used for the polymerization step. After polymerization, the clear polymer sheets are removed from the molds, immersed in boiling water for one hour and equilibrated in distilled water.

The polymer compositions thus prepared and their properties are listed in the table.

Example 41-50										
	Composition									
Ex. No.	Macromer		F-mon %	M-3	%	H ₂ O %	Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %	O ₂ .DK Barrers, at mm/°C
	of Ex.	%								
41	28	22.2	R _f A 22.2	MA	55.6	4.4	4.0	11.5	50	42, 0.91/23
42	28	22.3	R _f A 22.2	MOEA	55.6	3.1	8.0	17.6	115	40, 0.90/23
43	28	22.2	R _f A 22.2	EOEA	55.6	3.1	2.6	9.7	33	40, 1.0/23
44	28	25	R _f A 25	EOEMA	50	2.6	4.8	11.9	69	35, 0.95/23
45	26	25	C ₆ FA 25	EOEA	50	2.2	5.3	11.2	78	35, 0.97/22
46	26	25	C ₆ FA 25	EOEMA	50	2.4	8.3	12.7	125	23, 0.95/22
47	27	33	C ₆ FA 33	EOEA	34	2.2	5.5	9.0	123	58, 1/23
48	27	33	C ₆ FA 33	EOEMA	34	2.1	5.3	9.2	129	44, 1/23
49	27	33	C ₆ FA 32	MOEA	36	2.8	4.8	9.2	104	45, 1/23
50	27	31	C ₆ FA 31	EOEOEA	34	3.0	4.6	9.3	86	68, 1/24
R _f A, C ₆ FA and MOEA are as described in Example 16; EOEA is ethoxy-ethyl acrylate EOEMA is ethoxy-ethyl methacrylate EOEOEA is ethoxy-ethoxy ethyl acrylate MA is methyl acrylate										

Example 51:

99.0 g (0.050 m) Poly-(butylene oxide) diol of MW 1980 are charged into a 3-necked round bottomed flask, equipped with stirrer, nitrogen inlet tube, condenser thermometer and dropping funnel. 0.03 g Dibutyltin dilaurate are added and the solution is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen while 16.28 g (0.105 m) 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate (IEM) are slowly added. The mildly exothermic reaction mixture is maintained at 35°C for one hour, after which time IR-analysis shows no free remaining NCO-groups.

A 0.5 mm thick polymer sheet is cast following the procedure of example 3 and having the following composition and properties:

poly-butyleneoxide-dimethacrylate : 25%

C₆F₁₃CH₂CH₂OOC-CH=CH₂ : 25%

methoxyethyl acrylate : 50%

Physical properties

Tensile Strength : 6.8 kg/cm²

Youngs Modulus : 16.7 kg/cm²

Elongation : 66%

O₂.DK : 13 barrers (0.4 mm/20°C)

Water absorption is 1.4%

Example 52:

428.0 g (0.2223 m) Poly-(butylene oxide) diol of MW 1925 are charged into a 3-necked round bottomed flask, equipped with stirrer, nitrogen inlet tube, condenser thermometer and dropping funnel. 0.050 g Dibutyltin dilaurate are added and the liquid is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen while 98.7 g (0.447 m) isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI) are slowly added. The mildly exothermic reaction mixture is maintained at 35°C for 1 1/3 hour, after which time NCO-titration shows the free remaining NCO-groups to be one half of their original concentration. 60.3 g (0.463 m) 2-Hydroxyethyl methacrylate are added to the

reaction mixture which is then stirred at 30-35° C for 22 hours, after which time no free NCO can be detected by IR analysis.

A 0.5 mm thick polymer sheet is cast following the procedure of example 3 and having the following composition and properties:

5 poly-butyleneoxide-dimethacrylate : 33%

$C_6F_{13}CH_2CH_2OOC-CH=CH_2$: 33%

methoxyethyl acrylate : 34%

Physical properties

Tensile Strength : 6.9 kg/cm²

10 Youngs Modulus : 14.7 kg/cm²

Elongation : 74%

O₂.DK : 20 barrers (0.4 mm/20° C)

Water absorption is 1.8%

15

Example 53 and 54: Synthesis of PEO-di(urea-methacrylate) copolymers with R_f-ethyl acrylate or tris (trimethylsiloxy)-silyl-propyl methacrylate.

20 59.95 g (0.010 m) α,ω -Di(1-methyl-aminoethyl) poly-(ethylene oxide) of MW 5995 and 59.95 g of anhydrous methyl propyl ketone are charged into a 3-necked round bottomed flask equipped with a stirrer, nitrogen inlet, condenser, thermometer and dropping funnel. The solution is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen. Then 3.10 g (0.020 mole) of 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate (MW 155) dissolved in 3.1 g of anhydrous methyl propyl ketone are added slowly from the dropping funnel. The mildly exothermic reaction is maintained at 35° C and below by water bath cooling for 1 hour at which time IR analysis shows

25 the reaction to be complete.

Following the procedure of example 3, the PEO-dimethacrylate is reacted with a fluorinated and a silicone containing comonomer, using methyl-propyl ketone as a solvent. The clear polymer sheets are worked up as described and tested (C₆FA is C₁₆F₁₃-ethylacrylate; Si₄MA is tris-(trimethylsiloxy)-silyl-propyl methacrylate; [POL] is concentration of monomer/polymer in methyl propyl ketone).

30

Ex. No.	Composition %				[POL] %	H ₂ O %	Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	INSTRON Data		
	Macromer	C ₆ FA	Si ₄ MA	MOEA				Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %	O ₂ .DK Barrers, at mm/° C
53	30	50	-	20	70	51.3	2.3	3.1	119	51 0.5/20
54	40	-	40	20	63	57.7	3.3	3.3	227	47 0.5/20

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C₆FA, Si₄MA, MOEA, [POL] are defined in example 5 and 16

Example 55: Synthesis of PEO (MW ~ 6000) di(urea- α -methyl styrene)

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50 59.95 g (0.010 m) of α,ω -Di-(1-methylaminoethyl)-poly-(ethylene oxide) of MW 5995 (Jeffamine-ED 6000) and 59.95 g of anhydrous methyl propyl ketone are charged into a 3-necked round bottomed flask which has been equipped with a stirrer, nitrogen inlet, condenser, thermometer and dropping funnel. The solution is stirred at room temperature under dry nitrogen, then 4.02 g (0.020 mole) of m-isopropenyl- α,α -dimethyl-benzyl isocyanate (MW 201) dissolved in 3.1 g of anhydrous methylpropyl ketone are added slowly from the dropping funnel. The mildly exothermic reaction is maintained at 35° C and below by water bath cooling for 1 hour, at which time an IR analysis shows the reaction to be complete.

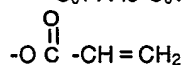
55 Example 56-59:

Following the general procedure of example 3, but using 25% methyl-propyl ketone as solvent, and using the PEO-macromers of example 53 and 55, fluorinated copolymer hydrogels are prepared and their

properties measured.

Ex. No.	Macromer		C ₆ FA %	M-3 %	H ₂ O %	Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %	O ₂ .DK Barrers, at mm/°C
	of Ex.	%							
56	53	40	40	MOMA 20	58.0	4.8	3.9	298	41 0.5/17
57	53	40	40	MOA 20	58.2	2.3	4.2	70	42 0.5/17
58	55	40	40	MOMA 20	61.6	2.4	1.8	261	40 0.5/17
59	55	40	40	MOA 20	60.5	3.7	5.9	102	41 0.5/17

C₆FA is C₆F₁₃-CH₂CH₂



MOMA is methoxy-ethyl methacrylate

MOA is methoxy-ethyl acrylate

Example 60:

The macromer-monomer mixtures of examples 16, 56, 57, 58, and 59 are filled into poly-propylene contact lens molds, which are exposed to UV radiation from a SYLVANIA Blacklite-blue lamp for four hours. The molds are opened and the lenses are released during equilibration in distilled water. Clear, soft and wettable contact lenses are obtained.

Example 61:

Using the same procedure as described in example 60, contact lenses are prepared from the PPO-macromer/monomer solutions of example 45 and 47. Clear, soft contact lenses are obtained.

Example 62-67:

Using the procedure described in example 3, the following compositions are prepared and their water content and physical properties are determined.

Example No.	Mac of Ex.	Compositions		H ₂ O %	O ₂ -DK barrers at mm/°C	Tensile Strength Kg/cm ²	Young's Modulus Kg/cm ²	Elongation %
		Mac %	C ₆ FA %					
62	4	30	70	34.8	39 0.5 /22	4.0	7.1	160
63	4 + 53 ¹⁾	30	70	44.9	43 0.43/20	5.2	7.3	190
64	53	30	70	51.8	51 0.5 /20	2.3	3.9	220
65	4	20	80	28.3	48 0.43/22	4.6	9.4	200
66	4 + 53 ¹⁾	20	80	36.6	43 0.45/22	7.4	4.9	380
67	53	20	80	41.1	53 0.45/20	3.8	2.4	490

All polymers form clear, flexible hydrogels in water.

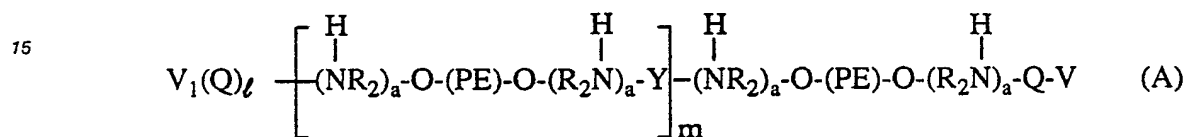
¹⁾ Equal parts, by weight.

Claims

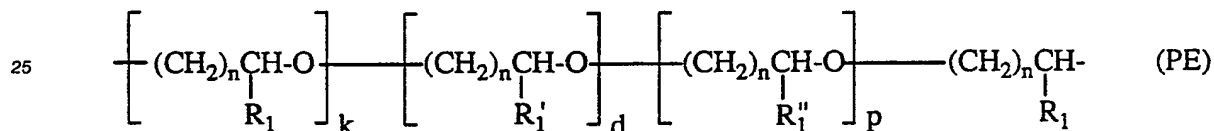
1. A copolymer which is oxygen permeable, flexible, wettable, biocompatible and suitable for use in ophthalmic devices, such as contact lenses, which copolymer comprises the polymerization product of

- 5 (A) 10 to 80% by weight of a vinyl-telechelic polyether, or a mixture thereof,
 (B) 90 to 20% by weight of
 (B-1) a fluorinated, ethylenically unsaturated monomer, or
 (B-2) a silicone-containing ethylenically unsaturated monomer, or a mixture of monomer (B-1) and monomer (B-2), and
 10 (C) 0 to 60% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer or mixture of monomers other than monomer (B-1) or monomer (B-2).

2. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein the vinyl-telechelic polyether (A) has the formula (A):



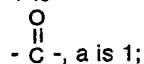
20 wherein PE has a number average molecular weight (MW) of about 500 to about 10000 and has the formula:



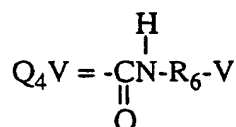
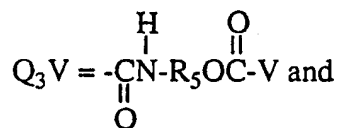
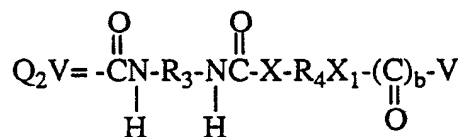
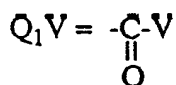
- 30 wherein n is 1 to 3,
 k, d and p are integers from 0 to 300, and the sum of k + d + p is 7 to 300,
 R₁, R₁' and R₁'', are independently of each other hydrogen or methyl, with the proviso that if n is 3, R₁, R₁' and R₁'', are hydrogen,
 a is zero or 1,
 35 m is an integer from zero to 2,
 l is zero or 1,
 R₂ is linear or branched alkylene with 2 to 4 carbon atoms;



- 45 wherein R₃ is a divalent aliphatic group with 2 to 14 carbon atoms, a divalent 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic group with 5 to 15 C-atoms, or an arylene group with 6 to 14 C-atoms, with the proviso, that if Y is



- 50 Q is selected from (shown as attached to V):



wherein R₄ is alkylene of 2 to 4 carbon atoms,

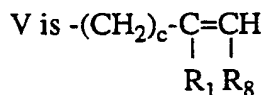
R₅ is alkylene of 2 to 10 carbon atoms,

R₆ is arylene or alkyl-substituted arylene of 6 to 20 carbon atoms,

X is -O- or -NR₇-, wherein R₇ is alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms,

X₁ is -O-, -NH- or -NR₇-,

b is zero or 1,



c is zero or 1,

V₁ has same meaning as V, or is H or R₉, when t is zero,

R₈ is H or -COOH, with the proviso that, if R₈ is -COOH, R₁ is H, c is zero, and Q is Q₁;

R₉ is alkyl of 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

with the further proviso that when Q is Q₂, a is zero;

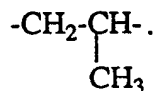
when Q is Q₂, Q₃ or Q₄, R₈ is H;

when c is 1, b is zero, Q is Q₂ and R₁ and R₈ are H; and

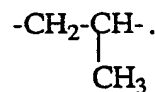
when V₁ is R₉, m is zero.

3. A copolymer according to claim 2 wherein the polyether PE is a poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) of 500-10000 MW, a poly(propylene oxide) (PPO) of 500-10000 MW, a poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide) of random or block copolymer structure in ratios of PEO:PPO from 1:30 to 30:1 of 500-10000 MW, or a poly(tetramethylene oxide) of 500-10000 MW.

4. A copolymer according to claim 3 wherein the polyether PE is a poly(ethylene oxide) of 1000-8000 MW, or a poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide) of 1000-10000 MW and wherein a is 1 and R₂ is

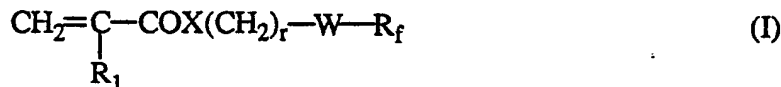


5. A copolymer according to claim 3 wherein the polyether is an poly(propylene oxide) of 1000-8000 MW, a is 1 and R₂ is



6. A copolymer according to claim 3 wherein QV is Q₂V, wherein in Q₂-R₃ is a divalent radical obtained by removing the two -NCO groups from a diisocyanate selected from the group consisting of ethylene diisocyanate, 1,2-diisocyanatopropane, 1,3-diisocyanatopropane, 1,6-diisocyanatohexane, 1,2-diisocyanatocyclohexane, 1,3-diisocyanatocyclohexane, 1,4-diisocyanatobenzene, bis(4-isocyanatocyclohexyl)methane, bis(4-isocyanatocyclohexenyl)methane, bis(4-isocyanatophenyl)methane, 2,6- and 2,4-toluene diisocyanate; 3,3'-dichloro-4,4'-diisocyanatobiphenyl; 1,5-diisocyanatonaphthalene, hydrogenated toluene diisocyanate; 1-isocyanatomethyl-5-isocyanato-1,3, 3-trimethylcyclohexane (=isophorone diisocyanate); 2,2,4-(2,4,4)-trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate, 2,2'-diisocyanatodiethyl fumarate; 1,5-diisocyanato-1-carboxypentane; 1,2-, 1,3-, 1,6-, 1,7-, 1,8-, 2,7- and 2,3-diisocyanatonaphthalene; 2,4- and 2,7-diisocyanato-1-methylnaphthalene; 4,4'-diisocyanatobiphenyl; 4,4'-diisocyanato-3,3'-diisocyanato-6(7)-methylnaphthalene; 4,4'-diisocyanato-2,2'-dimethyl biphenyl; bis-(4-isocyanatophenyl) ethane; and bis(4-isocyanatophenyl) ether, and V-(CO)_b-X₁-R₄-X- is the radical obtained by removing the active hydrogen atom from a hydroxyl or amino group of a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate and methacrylate, 2- and 3-hydroxypropyl acrylate and methacrylate; 4-hydroxybutyl acrylate and methacrylate; glycerol dimethacrylate; hydroxyethyl maleate and fumarate; 2-hydroxyethyl- and 4-hydroxy-butyl vinyl ether; N-tert.-butyl-aminoethyl methacrylate, N-(3-hydroxypropyl)-methacrylamide; vinyl-benzyl alcohol; and allyl alcohol.
7. A copolymer according to claim 6 wherein diisocyanate is isophorone diisocyanate, 2,2,4-(2,4,4)-trimethylhexane-1,6-diisocyanate, 2,4-toluene diisocyanate or 2,6-toluene diisocyanate, and the active hydrogen containing vinyl compound is 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate or N-tert. butyl-amino ethyl methacrylate.
8. A copolymer according to claim 3 wherein QV is Q₃V and V-COO-R₅- is the radical obtained by removing the -NCO group from an isocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, 2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate, 3-isocyanatopropyl methacrylate, 1-methyl-2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, and 1,1-dimethyl-2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate.
9. A copolymer according to claim 8 wherein the isocyanate compound is 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.
10. A copolymer according to claim 3 wherein QV is Q₄V and V-R₆- is the radical obtained by removing the -NCO group from 2-isocyanatobutyl vinyl ether, styrene isocyanate, or m-isopropenyl-alpha,alpha-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.
11. A copolymer according to claim 10 wherein the isocyanate is m-isopropenyl-alpha, alpha-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.
12. A copolymer according to claim 4 wherein QV is Q₃V and V-COO-R₅- is the radical obtained by removing the -NCO group from an isocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, 2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate, 3-isocyanatopropyl methacrylate, 1-methyl-2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, and 1,1-dimethyl-2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate.
13. A copolymer according to claim 4 wherein QV is Q₄V and V-R₆- is the radical obtained by removing the -NCO group from 2-isocyanatobutyl vinyl ether, styrene isocyanate, or m-isopropenyl-alpha,alpha-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.
14. A copolymer according to claim 5 wherein QV is Q₃V and V-COO-R₅- is the radical obtained by removing the -NCO group from an isocyanate compound selected from the group consisting of 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, 2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate, 3-isocyanatopropyl methacrylate, 1-methyl-2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, and 1,1-dimethyl-2-isocyanatoethyl acrylate.
15. A copolymer according to claim 5 wherein QV is Q₄V and V-R₆- is the radical obtained by removing the -NCO group from 2-isocyanatobutyl vinyl ether, styrene isocyanate, or m-isopropenyl-alpha,alpha-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.
16. A copolymer according to claim 12, wherein the isocyanate compound is 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.
17. A copolymer according to claim 13, wherein the isocyanate is m-isopropenyl-alpha, alpha-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.
18. A copolymer according to claim 14, wherein the isocyanate is 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.
19. A copolymer according to claim 15, wherein the isocyanate is m-isopropenyl-alpha, alpha-dimethylbenzyl isocyanate.
20. A copolymer according to claim 2 wherein PE is poly(ethylene oxide), poly(propylene oxide) or poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide) and QV is Q₂V, Q₃V or Q₄V.
21. A copolymer according to claim 20 wherein QV is Q₃V or Q₄V and a is 1.
22. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein (B-1) is a fluorine containing monomer containing at least three fluorine atoms selected from the group consisting of hexafluoroisopropyl acrylate and methacrylate, perfluorocyclohexyl acrylate and methacrylate, pentafluorostyrene and the acrylate or methacrylate esters

or amides of the formula



wherein

R_f is $-(\text{CF}_2)_t\text{CF}_2\text{L}$ or $-(\text{CF}_2\text{CF}_2)_q\text{OCF}(\text{CF}_3)_2$,

R_1 is hydrogen or methyl,

X is oxygen or $-\text{NR}_7-$ wherein R_7 is an alkyl group with 1-5 carbon atoms,

r is an integer from 1-4,

t is an integer from 0-14,

q is an integer from 1-3;

L is hydrogen or fluorine, with the proviso that, when t is 0, L is fluorine; and

W is a direct bond or a divalent group of the structure $-\text{NR}_7-\text{CO}-$;

$-\text{NR}_7\text{SO}_2-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$; $-\text{NR}_7\text{SO}_2-$; $-\text{S}-(\text{CH}_2)_r-$; $-\text{NR}_7-(\text{CH}_2)_r-\text{NR}_7\text{SO}_2-$; or $-\text{NHCO}-$.

23. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein (B-1) is a fluorinated monomer selected from the group consisting of hexafluoroisopropyl acrylate, hexafluoroisopropyl methacrylate or a compound of structure (I), as defined in claim 22, wherein W is a direct bond and L is fluorine.

24. A copolymer according to claim 22 wherein X is oxygen, W is a direct bond, R_1 is hydrogen, r is 2, t is 6 to 10 and L is fluorine; or in which r is 1 or 2, t is 1-4 and L is fluorine, or in which R_1 is methyl, r is 2, t is 4 to 10 and L is fluorine.

25. A copolymer according to claim 22 wherein r is 1 or 2, t is 1 to 4 and L is fluorine.

26. A copolymer according to claim 22 wherein R is methyl, r is 2 and t is 4 to 10 and L is fluorine.

27. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein (B-2) is a silicone-containing vinyl monomer which is an oligosiloxanyl-silyl-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate containing 2 to 10 silicon atoms.

28. A copolymer according to claim 27 wherein the monomer is selected from the group consisting of tris(trimethylsiloxy)-silyl-propyl (meth)acrylate, triphenyldimethyl-disiloxanylmethyl (meth)acrylate, pentamethyl-disiloxanylmethyl acrylate, tert-butyl-tetramethyldisiloxanylethyl (meth)acrylate, methyl-di(trimethylsiloxy)-silylpropyl-glyceryl (meth)acrylate; pentamethyldi-siloxanyl-methyl methacrylate; heptamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxo methyl methacrylate; heptamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxo-propyl methacrylate; (trimethylsilyl)-decamethyl-pentasiloxo-propyl methacrylate; and undecamethyl pentasiloxopropyl methacrylate.

29. A copolymer according to claim 28 wherein the monomer is tris(trimethylsiloxy)-silyl-propyl methacrylate.

30. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein component (B) is 40 to 80% by weight of said copolymer.

31. A copolymer according to claim 30 wherein component (B) is 50 to 70% by weight of said copolymer.

32. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein component (C) is a monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n- and isopropyl acrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, trimethyl-cyclohexyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, benzyl acrylate and the corresponding methacrylates; furfuryl acrylate and methacrylate; methoxy-ethyl-, ethoxyethyl-, and ethoxy-ethoxy ethyl acrylate and methacrylate; 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate and methacrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl acrylate, methacrylate and methacrylamide; glycidyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethylacrylamide; N-isopropyl- acrylamide; N-vinylacetamide; N-vinylpyrrolidone; dimethylamino-ethyl methacrylate and methacrylamide; acrylic and methacrylic acid, vinyl sulfonic acid, styrene, 4-styrene sulfonic acid and 2-methacrylamido-2-methyl-propane-sulfonic acid and their salts, and mixtures thereof.

33. A copolymer according to claim 32 wherein monomer is methoxy-ethyl acrylate and methoxy-ethyl methacrylate, ethoxy-ethyl acrylate and ethoxy-ethyl methacrylate; methyl methacrylate; methyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate; N-vinylpyrrolidone; N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide and styrene, and ethoxy-ethoxy-ethyl acrylate or mixtures thereof.

34. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein component (C) is 5 to 60% by weight of said copolymer.

35. A copolymer according to claim 34 wherein component (C) is 10 to 50% by weight of said copolymer.

36. A copolymer according to claim 1 which is a contact lens.

37. A copolymer according to claim 1 wherein polyether PE is a fluorinated polyether of MW 600-5000 of structure $\text{HO}-\text{CH}_2\text{CF}_2(\text{C}_2\text{F}_4\text{O})_x(\text{CF}_2\text{O})_y\text{CF}_2\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$, wherein x and y are independently of each other integers from 6 to 50.

38. A copolymer according to claim 4 wherein the amount of component (C) is zero.

39. A copolymer according to claim 4 wherein component (A) is 15-30% by weight of said copolymer.

40. A copolymer according to claim 5 wherein component (A) is 30-60% by weight of said copolymer.
41. A copolymer according to claim 38 which is a contact lens.
42. A process for the manufacture of a copolymer according to claim 1 characterized in conventional copolymerizing the monomer mixture.
5 43. Use of a copolymer according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a contact lens.
44. A contact lens comprising a copolymer as defined in claim 1.
45. A contact lens consisting essentially of a copolymer as defined in claim 1.

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